

RADIO STAMPS
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Hello again, and welcome back to another edition of Radio Stamps. A special welcome if you're a new listener to the program.

Ascension Island: BBC Relay Station

This is program 20 and the subject again is radio stations on stamps. If you're like me, and millions of others around the world, you probably listen to the BBC World Service sometime during the week. As a radio philatelist, you can also add a BBC relay station to your radio stamps collection.

I was just listening to the BBC a few minutes ago. The program I heard was coming from the BBC relay station on Ascension Island, in the Atlantic Ocean. This station was opened in 1966. A year later, in 1967, Ascension Island issued a colourful set of four commemorative postage stamps to mark the event. This year, 1992, is the 25th anniversary of these special stamps. They would certainly make great additions to your collection.

The design of each stamp features a silhouette portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, on the left, with what looks like a stylized lion, on the right, holding a staff that includes symbolic radio signals. These remarkable stamps are unique as the portrait and the lion are in metallic gold. Across the top of each stamp, in white capital letters, is spelled "BBC Relay Station 1966". The solid background colours of the stamps are royal blue for the 1 pence stamp, deep green for the 3 pence issue, rich mauve for the 6 pence, and orange red for the 1 shilling and 6 pence denomination. It's an attractive set for the colour combinations alone. The Scott catalogue numbers for these stamps, issued on December 12, 1967, are 111, 112, 113 and 114.

I'm always on the lookout for postage stamps that celebrate the anniversaries of radio stations. I also like to collect stamps that have illustrations on them of actual radio stations. I was really pleased to discover that the BBC relay station on Ascension Island was nicely illustrated on one of four commemorative stamps, issued in 1982 by the Island's postal administration, for the 50th anniversary of the BBC.

Each of the four stamps in this distinctive set includes the

special BBC 50th anniversary logo. The clever logo design features a map of the world, from a north pole perspective, placed over concentric radio waves with a symbolic broadcast tower. You'll need a magnifying glass to see the logo words "50 Years of Broadcasting to the World".

The illustration on the 5 pence stamp is Bush House, the headquarters of the BBC external service. It was the first time I had ever seen a picture of this famous building. The 25 pence stamp shows Lord Reith, the first Director General of the BBC, sitting at his desk. The 40 pence issue shows King George V making his first Christmas BBC radio broadcast to the empire in 1932. My favourite, of course, is the 10 pence stamp. The illustration is the Atlantic relay station on Ascension Island, opened in 1966. The radio towers and support wires of the antenna system can be seen close to the shoreline, in the foreground, with the hills in the background. The Scott catalogue numbers for this set, issued by Ascension Island on December 20, 1982, are 317, 318, 319, and 320.

As I mentioned the last time, the **Radio Stamps** program is being sponsored this year by the North American Shortwave Association. The club is underwriting the production and mailing costs of this volunteer program. A special thanks again to Bob Brown, Executive Director, for the club's generous support of the **Radio Stamps** program. The North American Shortwave Association has membership across Canada and the United States, and around the world. The club produces NASWA, spelled N-A-S-W-A, the monthly journal of the Association. A sample copy is available for only \$2. If you'd like to write to the club, here's the address. North American Shortwave Association, 45 Wildflower Road, Levittown, spelled L-e-v-i-t-t-o-w-n, in Pennsylvania, spelled, P-e-n-n-s-y-l-v-a-n-i-a. The zip code in the United States is 19507. The address again is North American Shortwave Association, 45 Wildflower Road, Levittown, Pennsylvania, 19057, U.S.A.

I'm pleased as well that **Radio Stamps** will also be a quarterly feature this year in the Association's journal, starting this month in February. I'll have news and illustrations for you, four times a year, of postage stamps and other philatelic material on the topic of radio. I hope you'll write to me with your comments.

That's all for today. As promised, here's my mailing address. Neil Carleton, that's spelled N-e-i-l C-a-r-l-e-t-o-n, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, spelled A-l-m-o-n-t-e, Ontario, spelled O-n-t-a-r-i-o. The postal code here in Canada is K0A 1A0. The address again is Neil Carleton, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, Ontario, K0A 1A0, Canada.

Until the next time, best wishes for good listening and collecting.